

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of authorizing the making of images on a receiver such as postage stamps by a receiving agency comprising the steps of:

- (a) electronically transmitting a digital image file over a channel to the receiving agency;
- (b) the digital image file includes at least one digital image and authorization information for making images on a receiver; and
- (c) receiving the digital image file at the receiving agency, displaying at least one received digital image and examining the displayed digital image to determine whether its contents are acceptable for making images and examining the authorization information and printing at a designated location accepted digital images on a receiver corresponding to the transmitted digital image when the authorization information is approved.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the transmitted digital image is converted by a display to a visual image which is viewed to determine if it is acceptable.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the authorization information is examined by logic and control means to determine that whether or not the authorization information is approved.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the images are printed by a thermal printer, electrophotographic printer, ink jet or photographic printer.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the digital image and the authorization information is transmitted over the Internet.

6. A method of authorizing the making of images on a receiver such as postage stamps by a receiving agency comprising the steps of:

- (a) examining a hardcopy image and authorization information produced at a location remote from the receiving agency to preliminarily determine if the image and authorization information is acceptable;

- (b) scanning the preliminarily accepted hardcopy image creating a digital image file, the digital image file includes at least one digital image and the authorization information for making images on a receiver; and
- (c) displaying and examining the scanned digital image and the scanned authorization information to determine whether their contents are approved for making images and printing at a designated location accepted digital images on a receiver corresponding to the scanned hardcopy image when the displayed image and the displayed authorization information are approved.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the scanned hardcopy image is converted by a display to a visual image which is viewed to determine if it is acceptable.
8. The method of claim 6 wherein the authorization information is examined by logic and control means to determine that whether or not the authorization information is approved.
9. The method of claim 6 wherein the images are printed by a thermal printer, electrophotographic printer, ink jet or photographic printer.
10. A method for printing a digital image received at a receiving agency, comprising the steps of: displaying at least one received digital image and corresponding authorization information and examining the displayed digital image and authorization information to determine whether their contents are acceptable for making images and printing at a designated location accepted digital images on a receiver corresponding to the transmitted digital image.
11. The method of claim 10 wherein the received digital image is converted by a display to a visual image which is viewed to determine if it is acceptable.
12. The method of claim 10 wherein the authorization information is examined by logic and control means to determine that whether or not the authorization information is approved.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein the images are printed by thermal printer, electrophotographic printer, ink jet or photographic printer.
14. The method of claim 10 wherein the digital image and the authorization information is transmitted over the Internet.